IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 10, 12 and 24-28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing a recombinant filamentous Actinomycete bacterium ~~exhibiting reduced branching and fragment septation during growth~~, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous Actinomycete bacterium, said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium lacking ~~significant~~ detectable endogenous ~~ssgA activity~~ SsgA, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous ~~SsgA activity~~ SsgA, which ~~activity~~ heterologous SsgA, in *Streptomyces griseus,* is encoded by an ssgA gene ~~having at least~~ comprising the sequence:

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTCATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA
51 GGAGCTCTCGTTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC
101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTTCCCGGCGATGCCCCTGTGACC
151 TGGGCGTTCGGCCGCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGGCTCAACAGCCCGAGCGG
201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCGACCGAGCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG
251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTCGGCGCGGACCGTGCGCTGTTCCGGGCGGGG
301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCTCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT
351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGGTGACTTCGACGGCAACCTGGAGGACGCAC
401 TGGGCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. Canceled.

3. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~additional~~ heterologous ~~SsgA activity~~ SsgA is provided by transfecting or transforming said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium with ~~additional genetic information~~ DNA encoding said ~~activity~~ SsgA.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~additional genetic information~~ DNA comprises ~~an~~ the ssgA gene ~~or a derivative or fragment thereof encoding similar SsgA activity~~.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said ssgA gene is ~~derived from~~ of ~~an~~ actinomycete origin.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said ssgA gene is ~~derived from~~ of ~~a~~ streptomycete origin.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said ssgA gene is ~~derived from~~ of ~~*Streptomyoes*~~ *Streptomyces griseus, Streptomyces collinus, Streptomyces albus, Streptomyces goldeniensis or Streptomyces netropsis* origin.

8. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~additional genetic information~~ DNA is integrated into the ~~bacterial~~ genome of the filamentous Actinomycete bacterium.

9. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~additional genetic information~~ DNA is part of an episomal element.

10. Canceled.

11. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein expression of said ~~ssgA activity~~ SsgA is inducible or repressible with a signal.

12. Canceled.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~12~~ 3, wherein said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium is a Streptomyces.

14. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium produces a useful product.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said useful product is an antibiotic.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said useful product is a protein.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein said protein is heterologous to said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium.

18. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is expressed from a vector encoding said protein present in said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium.

19. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said protein is secreted by said filamentous Actinomycete bacterium.

24-28. Canceled.

29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ssgA gene encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

30. (New) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a means for enhancing septation and fragmentation in a culture of the Actinomycete bacterium;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

32. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

33. (New) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.